Discussion Guide for Regional Community Forums

Please consider the following among other factors:

Population Growth for Northern Virginia Area

2000 Census Population Totals for Northern Virginia Region: 1,820,900
Population Forecasts* for Northern Virginia Region for 2010:   2,183,100
                                  20% Increase from 2000 to 2010

*Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Uninsured Population

According to a survey conducted in Northern Virginia in December 2000, 11% of the population did not have insurance.

This means that in 2000 there were 200,299 individuals who were uninsured. In 2010, if the current percentages of uninsured remain steady, the number of uninsured would rise to 240,141.

Without insurance people pay out of pocket, stop treatment or seek treatment in the public sector. The burden for public mental health and substance abuse services will fall to the CSB.

Proposals to Close or Relocate Private Psychiatric Hospital Beds

October 2002 COPN Request submitted by HCA for a Replacement Hospital in Loudoun County would result in a loss of 60 psychiatric beds and the closing of Dominion Hospital and Northern Virginia Community Hospital, both of which are located in the eastern part of the region.

Psych beds available for adults would be of particular concern, since 40 of the 60 psych beds proposed at the Replacement Hospital will be for youth, leaving only 20 beds for adults.

Funding Limitations:

As a result of proposed reductions in State and local funding, the Community Services Boards of Northern Virginia may experience by fiscal year 2004 loss $4.5 million in funding for mental health services and another $3.8 million in funding for mental retardation services and substance abuse treatment.

Please discuss as many of these questions as possible:

- What elements of the current mental health system for adults are working well?

- What elements of the current mental health system for adults could be improved?

- What is missing from the current mental health system for adults?

- How would you modify the draft **vision statement** for the region?

- How would you modify the draft **guiding principles** for the region?